

Attachment C: Committee Reports

Ecological Concerns Network

Ministry and Nurture

Peace and Social Concerns

Personnel

SAYF

Site coordinator

For Finance Committee, please see attachment F

For Faith and Practice Revision Committee, please see attachment G

ECOLOGICAL CONCERNS NETWORK

MISSION STATEMENT

SAYMA Ecological Concerns Network will provide assistance, including spiritual and consultative support, to Friends in Yearly Meeting who are following their leadings to work on ecological concerns. It will also work to raise the level of awareness of ecological concerns among SAYMA Friends.

The level of awareness of ecological concerns has never been higher than it is today, not only among friends but in the general population as a whole. This is wonderful thing. Unfortunately for a group such as this that came into existence to lift up these concerns we are at a point of “mission accomplished” for many of the original members of our group. While the level of expertise among various friends of SAYMA has risen to a level that they are providing consulting services both to Friends and to the general public the purpose for this organization as it was originally created will need to evolve for it to continue.

The Newsletter, that came into existence to group the announcements that were coming at such a pace that they were annoying coming one by one, now gets very little response from requests for materials. For the last two years Nominating committee has not been able to find Friends led to clerk the group.

Before making a decision to lay down this group, we are meeting to see if there are ways to re-energize and find new purpose for this group. The work at this year’s Yearly Meeting and in the months to come will redefine Ecological Concerns Network.

The need still exists to be doing a better job at communicating within SAYMA the functions of QEW, ECN, and the relevance of earth care work that is being accomplished by these committees, our individual monthly meetings and worship groups and the individual members and attendees of these meetings.

□ Action Item: We need to identify a contact representative from every MM. This is a continuing task similar to maintaining a directory as people move and their interests and availability changes.

We wish to acknowledge the work and energy of the various earthcare groups that exist at Monthly Meetings. This is where much of the real work is actually done. Ecological Concerns Network is available as a resource to those meetings that would like to start their own local group and to work on these issues.

Ministry and Nurture

Ministry and Nurture Committee has continued to focus on nurturing the gifts of ministry among our constituent meetings: emerging ministry, continuing ministry, and new directions for ministry. One way we do this is by holding our committee meetings at SAYMA meetings themselves, which has proved to be richly rewarding for us. We have increased our financial support of emerging gifts by disbursing the monies in the spiritual development fund more readily, using up all available funds this year.

Summary of those to whom we gave financial support this year

- Laura Norlin, Mark Wutka FGC Consultation for Traveling Ministry and Youth Ministry
- Ceil Wutka, Laura Norlin, School of the Spirit financial support
- Adrienne Lowe, help with living expenses at Earlham School of Religion, ongoing

At our meeting in Royal, M&N recommended that Yearly Meeting endorse the travel minute for Mary Ann Downey from Atlanta Meeting, which it did at spring rep meeting. We are thankful to have Mary Ann traveling amongst us, sharing her gifts of model clerking and deep knowledge of Friends' process. It was a great gift to have present not only Mary Ann, but SAYMA clerk Kristi Estes as well, who discussed with us ways to create an informal support system within the Yearly Meeting around gifts and ministry.

At our May meeting in Chattanooga, we were able to read 16 State of the Meeting reports. Several more have arrived since the May 1 deadline. Next year we want to receive these reports in time for us to compose a State of the Society report in advance of Yearly Meeting. Sadly, Gwinnet has been laid down as a SAYMA affiliate. Its remnant has either joined Ohio Yearly Meeting Conservative or returned to other Atlanta area SAYMA affiliates. Foxfire has endured some interpersonal challenges and we are working with them to try to heal and move forward as a meeting.

Since adopting our new format, SAYMA M and N has met at Crossville, Foxfire, Oxford, Swannanoa Valley, Asheville, Atlanta area worship groups, Brevard, Charleston, Columbia, Royal, Huntsville, and Chattanooga

Judy Guerry had a serious midwinter illness and operation. We are very happy that she has recovered and was back with us at our last meeting.

FGC Ministry & Nurture Consultation for Yearly Meetings and Fellowships

Judy Guerry and Nancy Whitt attended the consultation April 18-20 at Powell House in New York. In summarizing what they learned, Judy said that M&N committees need to look for where the life and vitality of the meeting is and acknowledge and affirm it. She also pointed to the importance of maintaining spiritual grounding in meeting process, which is made more difficult by the fact that many meetings are losing older, experienced Friends.

Other ideas mentioned:

- In one Yearly Meeting, Ministry and Nurture meets with the Yearly Meeting clerk every morning at breakfast at the annual gathering to listen and learn where the sticky points are.
- It is important in M&N meetings to listen to each other's joys and sorrows so we can better minister to others.

There is growing concern over the environmental impact of travel. But there are limits to working remotely, as by teleconferencing: this works best when you know each other already.

***Renewed Request for Expanded Budget**

Bob reported that M&N has committed all of the Spiritual Development Fund and spent its entire committee budget this year, despite not subsidizing a workshop presenter at Yearly Meeting as we often do. Bob's request for a \$500 increase for 2008-09 fiscal year for both spiritual development fund and the committee's annual budget was somehow lost in cyberspace. The request for a rise in the spiritual development request from this past fiscal year is for 2008-09 only, to enable us to replenish the fund. These requests will be renewed in September when the final budget goes before Rep Meeting for approval.

ACTION ITEMS:

**State of Society Beginning in 2009, Ministry and Nurture will prepare a State of the Society report for Yearly Meeting. To enable this, Ministry and Nurture requests that Yearly Meeting set the submission date for State of*

the Meeting reports to April 7 of each year. This is not intended to replace the publication of the individual State of the Meeting reports in the proceeding of the Yearly Meeting. Rather, the new report should bring into focus common themes, perhaps suggest ideas for a workshop at Yearly Meeting, and facilitate intervisitation. We also wish to remind monthly meetings that their reports should be approved by their meeting for business.

***Participation in Yearly Meeting Planning**

Bob summarized our previous discernment on this topic by saying that M&N wishes to be part of the process of writing the queries for worship-sharing at Yearly Meeting but cannot contribute a full member to the Yearly Meeting planning committee. Also, we do not want to be responsible for setting up worship-sharing rooms and finding leaders. He suggested that one or more members of M&N could meet with the planning committee at the session when the theme of the next Yearly Meeting is chosen (i.e. fall representative meeting).

Subsequently, M&N could have a couple of members on the subcommittee that chooses or writes the queries.

Respectfully,
Bob McGahey, Clerk

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

SAYMA Peace and Social Concerns Committee met on 6/13/2007 at the Yearly Meeting Gathering at Warren Wilson College. Present were Jere Licciardello, Kay Hogan Smith, Joan Barnett, and Steve Livingston (clerk). It had been two years since our committee last met. During that time, we had begun what our committee had, with the assistance and support of the Yearly Meeting, discerned to be the two primary tasks before us: first, to develop a web of communications with our constituent meetings; and second, to discern whether the beliefs we held in common regarding our opposition to torture would rise to the level of a Yearly Meeting Minute. One member of the committee offered a rough draft to begin our work on the second task.

Having heard the report that the committee had been unable to meet, the Representative Meeting of Spring 2008, acknowledging the widespread and strong leading among monthly meetings in opposition to torture, recommended that the committee develop a minute to present to this Yearly Meeting session, asking that the proposed minute be circulated to the extent possible given the short time frame. As it turns out, the time frame is exceptionally short. We have only just been able to meet yesterday. In that meeting, we were able to refine our rough draft into a minute we feel reflects the sense of the Yearly Meeting, as we comprehend it.

We therefore present to you a first reading of a proposed minute, with the intention of determining whether Yearly Meeting is led to unite on this simple statement assimilated from the minutes put forward by various monthly meetings, or whether we should proceed with our work as originally intended, offering the minute for review and feedback among our meetings in much the same manner as the Faith and Practice Revision Committee has utilized.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Livingston, clerk
SAYMA Peace and Social Concerns Committee

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Personnel Committee has met only once since last Yearly Meeting. There have been no major personnel issues. There have been no changes in personnel. Both employees have had positive evaluations. A cost of living increase has been recommended and has been forwarded to the Finance Committee and the Assistant Treasurer.

Sallie Prugh, Clerk of Personnel Committee.

SAYF Report to SAYMA

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) had another successful year. We hosted 7 retreats during the past year. Six have been completed and the 7th is occurring this weekend here at our SAYMA gathering. For the 6 completed retreats, we have averaged 36 Young Friends (YF) per retreat with 69 different teens coming to at least one retreat during the past year. Some Young Friends attended all 6 retreats and others attended one. Details of each retreat are summarized below. Four retreats this year were held at Meetinghouses, one at Hard labor Creek state Park in Georgia and one at Old Greer House in Tennessee.

We also held two joint Nurturing and Steering Committee retreats and those too are detailed below. Some of the work at these retreats has been to update the SAYF retreat planning manual and the SAYF Steering Committee Handbook. Please contact the SAYF Administrative Assistant, Therese Hildebrand if you wish to have a copy of either of these documents.

SAYF Retreats:

1. W. Knoxville Meetinghouse Retreat September 14 -16, 2007

Theme: Community Building

of YFs 37

of FAPs* 10

(*Friendly Adult Presence)

Activities included many getting-to-know-you games and a worship sharing circle.

2. Old Greer House Retreat October 12 -14, 2007

Theme: Energy

of YFs 28

of FAPs 8

Activities included a worship sharing circle, a meditation on food, plenty of outdoor activities and a fabulous trampoline.

3. Chapel Hill Meetinghouse Retreat November 16 -18, 2007

Theme: Applied Spirituality

of YFs 29

of FAPs 7

Activities included three interest groups: being a conscientious objector, Spiritual pilgrimages and yoga. There was also a silent walk and a creative expression.

4. Atlanta Meetinghouse Retreat January 18 -20, 2008

Theme: Quakerism

of YFs 42

of FAPs 9

Activities included a Meeting for Business, a worship sharing on “What Quakerism means to me” and 3 interest groups: music-making, yoga and Young Friends through Quaker History.

5. Nashville Meetinghouse Retreat March 14 -16, 2008

Theme: Waddup Mama Nature!?!

of YFs 37

of FAPs 8

A planned activity included making a community garden but was cancelled due to rain. There was a trip to Centennial Park, some spiritual and fun games and an impromptu square dance.

6. Hard Labor Creek State Park Retreat April 18 -20, 2008

Theme: Cultivating Peace

of YFs 40

of FAPs 7

Activities included: a presentation by an AFSC representative on truth in recruiting, a meditative art project, swimming and outdoor games and activities.

SAYF Nurturing/Steering/Oversight Committees Retreats

1. Black Mountain, NC

Hendrickson Home

August 24 -26, 2007

of Nurturing Committee Members 15

of Steering Committee Members 8

We developed a safety plan, discussed safety issues and developed an emergency response form, made revisions to our medical release form and our FAP application form, and made many changes to the SAYF retreat planning manual.

2. Watkinsville, GA

Fisher-Watkins Home

February 23-25, 2008

of Nurturing Committee Members 12

of Steering Committee Members 7

We planned for SAYF at Yearly Meeting and developed our calendar of retreats for the 2007 -2008 year. We also made many changes to the SAYF Steering Committee Handbook.

Site Coordinator Report

Last summer I reported to Yearly Meeting about a rumor that Warren Wilson College might be seeking a more profitable guest in the early summer when we hold our annual gathering. At the time, I reported that it was only a rumor, and I did not think there was cause for concern about our plans to return here in 2008 and 2009.

I would like to relate to you my experience arranging for this year's gathering and ask you, Friends, if there is now cause for concern.

I first met with our campus liaison, Jon Verner, early in the Spring. He indicated to me at that time that renovations had been completed on Jensen. We toured the building. I noted that we would likely want some additional facilities and based on our positive experience using the buildings in the Science Complex, we would like to avail ourselves of them again.

Jon said that that would be no problem.

After our Spring Representative Meeting in Atlanta, I contacted Jon with numerous specific requests that we had not reviewed in our earlier meeting, such as the use of the pool, Bryson Gym, and Kittredge Rehearsal Hall. Jon did not reply to my inquiry. I emailed him again a week later, again two weeks thereafter, and then, after a third reminder, he wrote an apology, stating that he was so busy with student housing issues that he did not have time to answer my requests.

At about the same time, I received a message from Jon informing me that the College had scheduled additional work in Jensen and it would not be available to us. In his message he apologized for the inconvenience and assured me that he would work with us to be sure we were properly accommodated. I replied that as long as we had access to Kittredge and the Science buildings, we'd probably be all right.

By mid-May, I still had no commitment on any of the specific requests I had enumerated to Jon a month earlier. I emailed him somewhat urgently at this point, requesting full access to the Science buildings. He replied that the building managers were not comfortable with that, and I must submit specific requests for specific hours and specific rooms.

He also informed me that the College had reserved the Kittredge rehearsal hall for another group, and that it would therefore not be available to us. At this point we were about two weeks out, and I had begun to make room assignments.

A few days later, he informed me that the roof had given way in Bryson, and so it would not be available either. The pool was also not available to us, as the College had not hired a new pool director.

Friends, I suggest to you that the College is showing a marked disinterest in our relationship. Jon has assured me on every occasion when we have met that he greatly values our presence here, and that these decisions are being made by the governing board, over which he has no influence or control. He has always treated me with the utmost of respect and good will, and I have no reason to believe that he is performing his job with anything less than complete competence.

Friends, I suggest to you that we renew with all possible vigor our search for an alternate site for our 2010 Gathering.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Livingston
Site coordinator